

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A number of amendments have been made to the claims. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of cancelled Claim 5. Allowable Claim 12 has been amended to add the element language of original Claim 1. Claim 14 has been amended similarly to amended Claim 1 (adding language of cancelled Claim 5).

New Claim 15 is directed to a heat-sensitive element with language similar to original Claim 1 but “novolak resins” are not included in part (i). New process Claim 16 has language similar to Claim 11 but refers to process Claim 15. New Claim 17 is directed to a process like original Claim 11 but with the additional “conditioning” time feature as described on pages 29 (lines 1-5) and 31 (lines 4-5).

It is believed that the claims presently in this application are allowable over the cited art.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13, and 14 have been rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,689,534 (Oda et al.), and particularly by Example 2 of that reference. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 11, and 14 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of cancelled Claim 5. All of the other rejected claims are dependent upon amended Claim 1.

It is also submitted that new Claims 15 and 16 are novel over Oda et al. because the cited Example 2 describes the presence of a cresol novolak resin in mixture with the (alkyl)phenol novolak resin. These new claims do not include novolak resins in component (i).

New process Claim 17 is also novel over Oda et al. because that reference fails to describe or teach the use of a “conditioning” step for 60-96 hours after the compositions are coated and dried on the substrate (see Col. 28, line 25 to Col. 29, line 36). Oda et al. does describe a wet conditioning step carried out for up to 20 minutes (Col. 29, lines 19-27).

For these reasons, Applicants believe that the anticipation rejection should be withdrawn and this application passed to allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Early action to that end is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Lanny Tucker", is written over a horizontal line.

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